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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/058,967	01/30/2002	Eric R. Cosman	11747-009001	4492

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EXAMINER

VRETTAKOS, PETER J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3739

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/058,967

Applicant(s)

COSMAN, ERIC R.

Examiner

Peter J Vrettakos

Art Unit

3739

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1,2,3,7,9,11,14,17,19,20-22,24-25, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Panescu et al. ('267).

Independent claims 1,11,14,17

Panescu et al. (Panescu) discloses a device, amongst several embodiments, and method for tissue ablation comprising:

an elongate/tubular member (figure 15; element 22) with longitudinal passage/lumen dimensioned to pass a guide element (126),

the elongate/tubular member including an electrode (16) disposed at a distal portion of the elongate member;

a fluid channel (64) and port (44) in thermal communication with the electrode.

Note: the elongate member (22) and the electrode (16) are depicted in figure 15a as contiguous/seamless.

Dependent claims

Re: claims 2, Panescu depicts a blunt tip in figure 15a.

Re: claims 3,26, and 27, Panescu discloses fluid inlet (54) and outlet (72) ports, a fluid source (50), and injector (56) in figure 19.

Re: claims 7 and 9, Panescu discloses a flexible elongate member (col. 4:63-64).

Re: claim 19, Panescu also discloses a flexible guide wire (34, col. 5:6).

Re: claim 20, Panescu discloses a rigid stylet wire (126, col. 19:23-25) – includes a stainless steel sleeve (128).

Re: claims 21,22,24, and 31, Panescu depicts an anchor (150) in figure 15c.

Re: claim 25, Panescu depicts a generator (12) and an electrical conductor (32) in figure 2a.

2. Claims 1-20, 22-23, 25-30, and 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brucker et al. ('267).

Independent claims 1,11,14,17,28

Brucker et al. (Brucker) discloses a device (10; several embodiments) and method for tissue ablation comprising:

an elongate/tubular member (figure 1; element 16) with longitudinal passage/lumen (17) dimensioned to pass a guide element (68; col. 5:47-49),

the elongate/tubular member including an electrode (18,20) disposed at a distal portion of the elongate member;

a fluid channel (64) and port (58) in thermal communication with the electrode (see col. 5:17).

Method steps include using a guide element (30) to establish a tract; (using embodiment in figure 12) sliding an electrode (202,204) including an elongate member (200) along the guide element (col. 7:16-18; ablation catheter in figure 6 is directly analogous to that in figure 12); and supplying high frequency energy (col. 7:23-27).

Dependent claims

Re: claims 2, Brucker depicts a blunt tip in figure 3.

Re: claims 3,26, 27, 29, and 33, Brucker discloses fluid inlet (34) and outlet (58) ports, a cooling saline source (inherent), and injector (col. 10:1-10).

Re: claim 4, Brucker discloses a rigid elongate member (col. 2:41-44).

Re: claim 5, Brucker discloses a distal tip with a rounded contour (figure 6).

Re: claims 7 and 9, Brucker discloses a flexible elongate member (col. 2:41-44).

Re: claims 6,8, and 15, Brucker depicts an electrode (202,204) in figure 12 with a tapered contour converging with the distal opening of the elongate member.

Re: claims 10 and 16, Brucker discloses ring electrodes (col. 4:11-13).

Re: claim 12, Brucker discloses a metal tube (figure 8; 70) and insulation (polyimide tubing; col. 6:16). The electrodes represent inner metal tubing, see figure 7 and the lumen 82 could hold fluid.

Re: claim 13, Brucker discloses a plastic tubular member (col. 3:43-44) and a metallic electrode (col. 2:4-6).

Re: claims 18 and 30, Brucker discloses a needle element (col. 10:1-10).

Re: claims 19 and 20, Brucker discloses guide/stylet wires (col. 6:50-52).

Re: claims 22 and 23, Brucker discloses a movable member (66; col 5:9-11).

Re: claim 25, Brucker discloses a generator and an electrical conductor (col. 5:43-46).

Re: claim 34, Brucker discloses introducing drugs (such as chemo agents) in col. 10:10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 21, 24, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brucker in view of Panescu.

Brucker neglects to disclose an anchor.

Panescu discloses an anchor as discussed above that could easily and obviously be inserted into the Brucker device submitted above. The motivation to do so is to anchor the device to the targeted tissue to prevent slippage during energy application.

4. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brucker in view of Nishtala et al. ('678).

Nishtala discloses a dilating element for enlargening a tract created in an analogous protocol to the Applicant's and Brucker's. The motivation to combine the patents would be to permit an easy and consistent means of creating a patent tract for passageway of surgical tools such as Brucker's.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

5. Claims 1-27 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,506,189. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both the application and the patent disclose a hollow tubular member with electrodes and fluid conduits.

Art Unit: 3739

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter J Vrettakos whose telephone number is 703 605 0215. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C Dvorak can be reached on 703 308 0994. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 0858.

Pete Vrettakos
September 15, 2003

PV

Roy D. Gibson
ROY D. GIBSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER